



PARTicles

The newsletter of PART of Westford, MA – WB1GOF

February 2014

President's Column

- *Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ)*

I had hoped that Mother Nature would be afraid of dumping snow on us when Rich (AB1HD) and I both bought snow blowers on the same day at the same place. I have never previously owned a snow blower, despite living in New England all of my life, but I'm really glad I've got it this year. Mt. Crumpit Pass (my steep, long driveway) has been challenging this year. It has taken some time away from radio projects.

My daughter Kimberly (KB1PZG) will be entering college in September 2014, so I get to fill out the FAFSA forms to try to get her some federal financial aid. I also need to do my 2013 taxes early as part of this process. Here starts the 10 consecutive years of having children in college. Oh, joy. I hope my existing radios and antennas will last that long.

I was happy to see a decent turnout at the monthly breakfast in January. There were a couple of months where attendance was down, due to storms and exceptionally cold weather. Despite the winter conditions, a couple of avid "fox hunters" (ARDF enthusiasts) continue to enjoy searching for hidden radio transmitters. John (KB1MGI) even has a remote controlled fox that is activated via the reception of a DTMF tone. I understand that Bob (W1FDR) and Tim (KC1AAJ) have kept their enthusiasm level high - good for you guys!

Our February speaker will be Terry (W1TR), who will be talking all about antenna towers, how they are installed, permits required, etc. Meeting attendance continues to be high, so I encourage folks to get to the meeting early to chat with fellow hams and get a good seat. We've been very close to "standing room only" with 40+ people attending most of our recent meetings.

Unfortunately, I missed the ham radio Flea Market at the Marlboro middle school. I hope those of you who attended found some cool stuff and had a good time.

I don't think it is too early to mention some upcoming club activities. In April, on Patriots' Day weekend, the club will sponsor the K1P Special Event station, and will be looking for operators for this casual event. In May, the Westford Apple Blossom Parade will take place, and PART has traditionally has 6-12 volunteers at this public service event. Also, in early May, NearFest will be taking place in Deerfield, NH. This large ham radio flea market is a great place to be in the spring.

There is currently an opening for a speaker at the March PART meeting. If you have a topic and a desire to address the club, please contact me at kb1oiq@arrl.net and we can discuss the possibilities.

73 de Andy KB1OIQ

Next PART meeting: Tuesday February 18th
@1930 – Westford Police station

Treasurer's Report

PART Treasury between 17-December '13 & 27-January '14 (As of 28-January '14)

	General Fund	Repeater Fund	Checking Total
Old Balance	\$2,653.33	\$2,097.20	\$4,750.53
Income	\$ 346.10	\$ 164.51	\$ 510.61
Expenses	\$ (159.65)	\$ 0.00	\$ (159.65)
Net	\$ 186.45	\$ 164.51	\$ 350.96
New Balance	\$2,839.78	\$2,261.71	\$5,101.49

PART 2014 Membership as of 12-February '14

	Individuals (= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)	Households (= New for 2014 + Renew for 2014)
Full (\$25)*	21 (= 3 + 18)	21 (= 3 + 18)
Senior (\$15)*	22 (= 0 + 22)	22 (= 0 + 22)
Family (\$30)*	12 (= 0 + 12)	6 (= 0 + 6)
Student (\$15)	1 (= 0 + 1)	1 (= 1 + 0)
Associate (\$10)	0 (= 0 + 0)	0 (= 0 + 0)
Grand Total*	56 (= 4 + 52)	50 (= 4 + 46)

ARRL members: 51

ARRL Life members: 8

NOTE: * Starred lines changed since 15-January '14

##To pay dues##

PART, P.O. Box 503, Westford, MA 01886-0015

-or-

Club Meeting, Westford P.D., 7:30PM, 3rd Tuesday

Latest new PART members:

Robert/KA1VF

Upcoming PART Meetings/Events

February 18th, 2014

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. Westford Police station

March 1st, 2014

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

March 18th, 2014

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. Westford Police station

April 5th, 2014

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

April 15th, 2014

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. Westford Police station

May 3rd, 2014

- PART monthly breakfast. Westford Regency. 8-10 AM (\$15/\$9; kids: \$8 – see note below)

May 17th, 2014

- Apple Blossom Parade

May 20th, 2014

- PART Meeting. 7:30 -9 p.m. Westford Police station

Monthly PART Meetings and Social Events

- Every Sunday, 8 PM – PART Net on 146.955 repeater
- Every 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 PM – PART Meetings at Westford Police station
- Every 1st Saturday, 8 AM, Regency Inn Westford – PART Monthly Breakfast
- Every Wednesday, 6 AM, Owl Diner Lowell – Breakfast

New England Area Ham/Electronic Fleas:

<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

2014

22 Feb S Burlington VT HAM-CON @HI I89x14 \$8@8 \$15@6 Mitch W1SJ 802 879 6589
1 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @MooseLodge @8:30 S@6:30 Mary KB1ME 413 222 1990 +
2 Mar Hicksville NY LIMARC @Levittown Hall Richie K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
15 Mar Dayville CT ECARA 8A @StJosephCh Paul KE1LI 860 928 5147
15 Mar N Conway NH WMARC @CommCtr \$3@9 \$10/T Greg KB1EZJ 603 759 6671 F+
16 Mar Southington CT SARA \$5@8A @HS \$20/T@6:15 eve Norm W3IZ 860 584 1403 F+
23 Mar Henniker NH CVRC @CommSch Don N1ZIH 603 651 8000 W+
28,29 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8 Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350
6 Apr Framingham MA FARA @Keefe Tech \$5@9 \$25/T@7:30 Bev N1LOO 508 626 2012 +
12,13 Apr Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553 F+
12 Apr Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518 +
12 Apr Montreal PQ MARC @StIgnatiusCh \$5@9 \$8/T@8:15 James 514 990 1965 W+
18 April S.Portland ME PAWA @AmLegion \$6@8 \$10/T@6:30 John W1JLB 207 776 2288 W+
20 Apr Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
Third Sunday April thru October
26 Ap Gales Ferry CT RANSON Auction @FireHs \$2@9 Gary WT1SND 860 884 4218 W+
27 Ap Middletown NY OCARA @CommCtr \$7@9 \$12Sell Neil AC2O 914 490 2001 F
2,3 May Deerfield NH NEARfest XV @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 R+
10 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo \$6@8 \$6/T@6 Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494 W+
18 May Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
31 May Goshen CT SBARC @FG Rt63 Marc K1CTT 860 672 2659 A+
7 June Hermon ME PSARA @8 @HS TG@6:30 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400 W+
7 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518
15 June Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
18,19 July Hartford CT ARRL Nat Conv 100th Anv. W+
20 July Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
17 August Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
6 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518
20 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Pete AA1PL 401 639 4484 T+
21 Sept Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
10,11 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XVI @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +
12 Oct Meriden CT Nutmeg @Sheraton was Wallingford John N1GNV 203 440 4973
18,19 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553 +
19 Oct Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F+
25 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC Auction @FireCo @10 Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 T
26 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @Levittown Hall Richie K2KNB 516 694 4937 A
8 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422
29 Nov Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518

July 17-20, 2014 -- Hartford, Connecticut



In the News

- [ARRL Centennial Convention](#) (PDF)
- [ARRL Plans Centennial Celebration in Hartford in 2014](#)

More information coming soon.

ARRL Hamfests and Conventions



Hamfest/Convention

03/16/2014 | [SARA Flea Market](#)

Location: Southington, CT

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Southington Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://www.chetbacon.com/flea2013.pdf>

[Learn More](#)



Hamfest/Convention

07/17/2014 | [ARRL NATIONAL CENTENNIAL CONVENTION](#)

Location: Hartford, CT

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: American Radio Relay League

Website: <http://ARRL2014.org>

[Learn More](#)

Area Events

USA ARDF Championships in Boston June 5 - 8

Joe Moell K0OV USA ARDF Coordinator



USA's national ARDF championships will return to the northeast this year. Radio-orientees of all skill levels will gather in Boston, Massachusetts for four days of intense competition on the first weekend of June. The events will be open to any fan of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting, with or without a ham license. Visiting competitors from outside USA

are welcome.

Classic five-transmitter competitions will take place on June 7-8, two meters on Saturday and 80 meters on Sunday. Prior to that will be the optional competitions in sprints and foxoring on June 5-6.



Organizing and hosting these championships will be Vadim Afonkin KB1RLI, one of USA's most accomplished radio-orientees. He will be assisted by members of Cambridge Sports Union. Winners of the 2014 USA championships will be under consideration for membership in ARDF Team USA, which will travel to the mountains of Kazakhstan for the 17th ARDF World Championships in September.

Registration is now open, with a deadline of May 1. Go to the Boston ARDF Web site (www.bostonardf.org) to register online and get more information. For the latest updates, subscribe to a special group mailing list for participants and others interested in these championships by sending a blank e-mail to usa2014ardf-subscribe@yahoo.com. Information about the sport of ARDF and ARDF Team USA is at www.homingin.com.

Amateur Radio support needed for Ashland half marathon in March

Mark Richards K1MGY

As a warm-up to the Boston Marathon in April, Ashland, Massachusetts has organized the Ashland Marathon Park Prep, a half-marathon road race, to be held on 16 March, 2014. Expect this event to span between 8AM and at the latest 1PM.

This may well be the very first Amateur Radio public service opportunity of the year in our region.

Last year was the first time ham radio made a showing, thanks to the support of the MMRA and FARA. This year, the event organizers are depending upon the safety and logistics communications presence that our Amateur Radio Service brings.

<http://www.marathonparkprep.com>

Come one, come all, experienced or first timers. There will be a place in our communications constellation for you in this organized event.

The assignments may include any of the following:

- experienced Net Control
- water station (fixed position) - any level of experience
- event manager liaison - experience preferred
- SAG unit - experience required
- First aid tent - experience preferred
- start/finish line - any level of experience
- sweep bus communications - any level of experience

It's helpful if you have 2M/70CM mobile and portable radios. Your portable should have sufficient battery for 4 to 6 hours of use and a gain antenna.

To register, you have two options:

Send email to: Mark Richards, K1MGY Amateur Radio Team coordinator:

k1mg@arrl.net

Or register using the online form at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1gNDUmHF3dEhCilltftpiczZGM8ceTLxBisWFQXceY>

Once you are registered, you'll be contacted by K1MGY with further information. Assignments and other documentation will be forthcoming within the next two weeks.

Note regarding liability waiver: Last year the event organizers did not require signing a liability waiver. We are waiting a determination on whether a waiver will be required for this event. If so, we will post it for advance review.

Looking forward to your support!

W1IS/4 2014 Report

- *Bob Glorioso W1IS*

I am sorry that I missed the postponed January PART meeting but we had tickets to Florida where my XYL, Dee – W1MGA, and I spend a few weeks every winter. I have more or less regularly updated PART on my ham activities down here in South Florida. Here is the 2014 report.

The rig again this year is the same KX3 that we used for the CW station at Field Day last year. Every year I try to make improvements to the station and this year is no exception. (See photos)

First, I ordered a Pryamid 6 Amp linear power supply from Amazon delivered to our condo and plan to leave it here for next year. A linear supply avoids the creeping RF noise from most switching supplies especially when the antenna is close to the rig. I have found that even the most highly recommended filtered switching supplies like Samlex and PowerWerx generate noise that can be heard if the rig is close to the antenna. If the antenna is separated from the rig by several tens of feet of feed line both these supplies are fine. Here the rig is only about three feet from the antenna.

Next, I added my iPad mini retina connected to the I/Q output on the KX3 running iSDR for a 40 KHz wide panadapter view of the band. Since I added the P3 to my K3 I can't believe I did without one for over 50 years



of hamming and, now with the free iSDR app and a Griffin external sound card, I have one for the KX3 too. I also connected my MacBook Pro to the KX3 running RUMlog logging SW that is especially good for chasing DX as well as an excellent logger for Macs.

The shocker! The night we arrived I connected the rig to the down spout that has worked so well the past 5 years and loaded it on 40M with a 1.7:1 SWR without the tuner and worked F6KHM. All was well with the world. WRONG! The next day and every day since, I haven't been able to load it at all. After looking at the down spout in the light of day, I found massive rust on the coupling of the two sections of pipe outside our window that more than likely turned the junction into a poor excuse for a diode and a poorer excuse for an antenna. I expect that I disturbed the connection when I disconnected the screw from the pipe and pulled the feed line into the condo to keep it out of view of the "Condo Police." A terrific rig is a poor rig without a decent antenna so I went to plan B and started using my long whip Buddistick (one-half of a Buddipole) clamped to the window frame. But, instead of using the loading coil, I added 7 feet of thin wire to the end of the whip letting it hang down from the nearly horizontal whip giving me a total length of 18 feet. Notice in the photos that I use the aluminum window frame as a counterpoise (Clip lead on the frame.). Is this perfect? No, but it gets out. Will I try other things? Undoubtedly!

The KX3 handles the tuning from 60-10M and it seems to work as well as the downspout. My first QSO was LA5SAA on 60M getting a 559 report. I also worked W1AW/KH6 and three Japanese stations on 10M. I had a goal of working DXCC QRP from here with the KX3 and last year I worked 57 countries before we left. So far this year I am at 70 countries adding 13 with my new antenna configuration. We're here for a few more weeks and I hope to get close to 100 countries with some help from the ARRL DX contest.



I often talk with hams stuck in a condo or home with antenna restrictions that tell of antenna woes. I encourage them to read antenna books to get down some principles and then try, try and try again until you get something that works. I always learn something new from these experiments, one of the joys of our hobby.

73, Bob W1IS

Member Awards

AMSAT Recognizes PART members

Both Brent Salmi-KB1LQD and Bryce Salmi-KB1LQC were surprised by the recent recognition given to them by AMSAT for their “engineering” efforts and assistance in the web site re-design.

Congratulations to both of you!



D-Star

D-STAR Tidbits

- Terry Stader KA8SCP

Continuing from last month's article, I thought I'd write about a few more little tidbits of information about local D-Star goings on:

- Fran-W1FJM has put together a nice set of web pages to try and organize many of the D-STAR gateways and the various reflectors. Take a look at <http://w1fjm.com/gateways.html>
- The new KB1ZEG D-Star repeater located in Falmouth will very shortly be on the air. This site should see wide-area coverage of the Cape and Islands from the 100 foot commercial tower site. See where the repeater is by clicking on this link: <http://status.ircddb.net/qam.php?call=KB1ZEG>
- Another new D-Star repeater using the call WA1PLE will be built in Wapole. Right now there hotspot located there on 446.100 MHz simplex. More information and activity can be seen at <http://status.ircddb.net/qam.php?call=WA1PLE>
- Still looking a D-Star training/new user meeting to be held somewhere in eastern Massachusetts. Details are yet to be ironed out. Topics to be included are radio programming, linking and unlinking, common user questions and practices. Lots of time for Q & A.



Etc.

News Release: Wet Noodle Antennas Introduces New Long Reach Antenna

- Courtesy of: BUSINESS USE RELATIONSHIP PRESS SERVICE (BURPS)

WELLSBURG, Mo. –

The Wet Noodle Antenna Company, a division of [Peanut Whistle Transmitters](#), is unveiling a new, ground-breaking antenna product just in time for the upcoming hamfest season.

The new and innovative long wire antenna, dubbed the “LONG REACH” *, will come in a variety of lengths and wire gauges sure to please even the most discerning amateur radio operator.

“We felt now was a superb time to introduce this unique product to the marketplace,” says company president Macy Blixton, daughter of Wet Noodle founder John Blixton. “And I must say initial feedback from the ham radio community has been overwhelming.”

Building on the quality engineering which made Wet Noodle a world-renowned name, the “LONG REACH” * random wire antenna will be offered in a variety of lengths and configurations.

“Suitable for every ham radio operator’s unique set of environmental circumstances” adds corporate spokesman Rafael Algonquin.

Each “LONG REACH” * antenna is a true random wire antenna: no two are alike! Customer A may receive a 32 foot piece of 10 gauge solid copper wire; while Customer B may receive 47 feet of 16 gauge copper weave; Customer C may receive 16 feet of 14 gauge aluminum braid.

Strategically, the Wet Noodle engineers will NOT include connectors, feed points, insulators, installation or instruction diagrams with the “LONG REACH” *, a tip of the hat to amateur radio operators ability to “customize each random length and type of wire to best suit their needs.”

Due to the random lengths and/or gauges of the finely crafted antennas– which ship in a hand-packed container – no operating specifications (i.e., resonant frequencies, etc.) are available.

“When the “LONG REACH” * is paired with one of our Peanut Whistle Transmitters, such as the [Peanut Whistle Model 250 or Model 500](#), it’s a really a display of an unbelievable quality of workmanship, says Blixton.

“We are excited and look forward to serving the amateur radio community for many years to come!”

The “LONG REACH” * random wire antenna will be formally introduced next month at the Chili Dog Hamfest in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Suggested retail: \$149.95.

*** Legal disclaimer: The term “LONG REACH” is not intended to imply any specific level of performance, wire length, resonance, conductivity, impedance, capacitive inductance nor DX operating ability.**

Thanks Bill Principe – K1NS (or “W One ZED ZED ZED” and he likes to be called)

<http://hamhijinks.com/news-release-wet-noodle-antennas-introduces-new-long-reach-antenna/>

Here's the SPECTACULAR
“L--O--N--G R--E--A--C--H”
RANDOM LENGTH OF WIRE ANTENNA

PRICED AT ONLY
\$149.95

“You are 599, OM!”

THE “BEST” STRAIGHT WIRE AVAILABLE
PERFECT FOR STRINGING BETWEEN TREES
ACCURATE
EASY TO INSTALL
PREMIUM SELECTIVITY
“OPTIMIZED” FOR HAM RADIO BY OUR UNIQUE PROCESS

Actual product may vary

ANOTHER FINE PRODUCT FROM
WET NOODLE ANTENNAS

Repeater Nets

146.955 Nets – There are a number of nets that are regularly scheduled on the 955 repeater.

- Sunday night at 2000/8:00 PM Sunday Night PART Net – every
- Sector 1C Emergency Communications Net – this net occurs the 1st Monday or every month (except when it is a holiday).
Skywarn and ARES Nets – these nets are spontaneous when local conditions warranted.

NOTE: You can LISTEN ONLY to this repeater audio by linking to this URL:

<http://www.radioreference.com/apps/audio/?feedId=10933> (effective 2/2012)

442.450 D-Star Nets – There are a number of nets that are regularly scheduled.

- Sunday 8:00 PM [Ozark Mtn D-STAR Net](#) – Reflector 001C
- Tuesday 8:00 PM [New England Amateur D-STAR Net](#) – Reflector 010C
- Friday 8:00 PM CanNet D-Star Net – XRF021B

NOTE: The status of the WB1GOF D-Star repeaters can be seen at <https://wb1gof.dstargateway.org>

Monthly PART Breakfast

Don't forget the monthly PART breakfast the 1st Saturday of each month at the Westford Regency Inn at 8 AM. The full hot & cold buffet breakfast costs about \$15 (includes tip) per person, a cheaper, lighter fare is available for adults and children. **NOTE: PLEASE let the folks who are settling the bill with the staff know whether you had a full or continental breakfast!**

Monthly Breakfast Pricing

The full breakfast is $\$11.95 + 18\% + 6.25\% = \15.00 (rounded up slightly). This price has recently changed. Here is the math for completeness and full disclosure.

Continental breakfast: \$9.00 (same price)

Full breakfast: \$15.00 (new price)

Kid's breakfast: \$8.00



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2011



Copyright WB1GOF,
Robert Schmeichel
2013

[ILLW at the half-way point](#)

The International Lighthouse and Lighthouse Weekend held each August is a long running and annual very popular fun-event. So far it has 160 registrations from 25 countries which are ready to go portable with Amateur Radio at historic locations that provided a service to yesteryear seagoers

[PSK31, Echolink and Antennas at Skills Workshop](#)

The second Amateur Radio Skills Workshop takes place this Monday, February 17 at Danbury in Essex

[AmateurLogic.TV Episode 63](#)

Tommy and George visit the Jackson Amateur Radio Club's 2014 Capital City Hamfest and bring back some unique stories. A special appearance by the guys from Ham Dynasty. Peter talks All About Radio. Tommy shows us simple tips to Secure Your Pi. And George brings us some Soldering Tip Tips

[RBR-4 confirms access to 137 Khz](#)

Industry Canada approved access by Canadian radio amateurs to the Low Frequency (LF) band 135.7 -137.8 kHz, subject to certain conditions in late 2009. This was a direct result of implementing changes from the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) 2007, which added amateur use of this spectrum on a Secondary basis

[Hispanic Technology Net](#)

On February 23rd at 16:00 UTC, a group of friends from the hispanic community from all over the world will start for the first time on reflector XRF007B

[Winter edition of Radio Waves](#)

The Winter 2014 edition of Radio Waves, ARRL's e-newsletter for instructors and teachers, now is available

[Successful Foundation for Essex Ham Radio Club](#)

The Loughton and Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society (LEFARS) had all 10 candidates pass the Foundation exam

[Bristol's Cabot Tower sends out Morse code](#)

A light spelling out 'Bristol' in Morse code is to flash again on Cabot Tower, marking the full refurbishment of the historic monument

['Cannibal' CME Hits Earth: Storm Warning Issued for Space:](#)

by latimes.com on February 16, 2014

A storm warning has been issued for space, where a "cannibal" coronal mass ejection grabbed the attention of space-weather watchers. The sun -- at a peak of activity in the 11-year solar cycle -- hurled a pair of CMEs that reached Earth early Saturday morning, Pacific time. The ejections, as NASA's Alex Young says, "are a huge release of solar material, billions of tons, and magnetic field." Upon reaching Earth, they can wreak havoc with our power grid -- and, on the bright side, create gorgeous auroras. Three ejections were forecast for the weekend. The one that hit Earth was a "cannibal" CME, as SpaceWeather.com put it. "It appears that at least two of them have combined -- one caught up with the

other one and the two became one," Young, a heliophysicist at Goddard Space Flight Center, said in an interview Saturday with the L.A. Times.

Ham Radio Convention Held in Oak Hill:

by woay.com on February 16, 2014

OAK HILL -- Local ham radio enthusiasts held their annual convention today. Members of the Oak Hill Plateau Amateur Radio Association met Saturday in Oak Hill by holding their annual convention. The group is dedicated to reviving ham radio. The one-widely popular form of communication can operate without electricity. One group leader says that ham radio is a great tool to have when natural disasters strike. "Sometimes we use that ability to help communicate in disastrous situations not only here in the state but in the country and all over the world," said association president Robert Kelly.

Delaware Township School Students to Speak with an Astronaut:

by nj.com on February 15, 2014

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, Delaware Township School students will connect live with an astronaut from Expedition 38 on the International Space Station. This amateur radio contact is made possible through the efforts of ARISS -- Amateur Radio on the International Space Station. Students will have an opportunity to participate in a 10 minute question and answer period with the astronaut. Students have been researching life on the International Space Station. Others have entered space themed artwork in the 2014 International Student Art Contest. In preparation for the radio contact, one of the middle school's students earned his amateur radio license and another is preparing to test for his. As part of our Partners in Education Spring Enrichment program, they will be leading a radio club for younger students.

Man Loses Hand, Fingers in Tower Accident:

by cdapress.com on February 15, 2014

A 52-year-old ham radio operator in Athol lost several fingers and one of his hands Thursday when his amateur radio antenna tower collapsed on him while he was working on it. Multiple agencies responded to Bearpaw Galindo's home on Caravelle Road after his wife, Gail Perry, phoned 911 and informed a dispatcher the man was hanging 20 feet in the air with his right arm pinned within a telescoping-type tower. Perry said Galindo was repairing a portion of the 40-foot-tall telescoping tower, when a cable holding it up snapped and caused the top portions of the tower to collapse on his hands. "I saw his fingers fly off of his right hand," Perry told The Press. "I never want to see something like that again." According to a press release from the Timberlake Fire Protection District, crews were dispatched to the scene at 11:58 a.m., and proceeded to raise the tower in an effort to free Galindo's arm. After 20 minutes, the man was extricated and lowered to the ground.

DX News -- ARRL DX Bulletin #7:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on February 14, 2014

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, QRZ DX, the Weekly DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

Propagation Forecast Bulletin #7 de K7RA:

by W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL on February 14, 2014

There seemed to be a disconnect between daily sunspot numbers and solar flux over the past reporting week (February 6-12), with the average daily sunspot number rising 28 points to 184.3, and average daily solar flux declining 8.5 points to 171.9. Perhaps this reflects the general weakness in the energy and magnetic complexity of recent sunspots. Many days we see a substantial number of sunspots, but they don't produce much activity.

Clear Skies for Club:

by armidaleexpress.com on February 14, 2014

Rick Rodgers is all smiles now the Armidale and District Amateur Radio Club has a new clubhouse. Stationed in the former rural fire service signal room, the clubhouse gives members a base from which they can contact the world. "It's great for us to have somewhere to house all our equipment," Mr Rodgers said. He hopes the facility will help entice people to come and see what ham radios are all about. "Getting your amateur radio licence is much easier than it once was," he said. "With the new clubhouse we are now able to conduct training, participate in radio sport competitions and host community events."

[Headwaters Amateur Radio Club Makes Air Waves:](#)

by potterleaderenterprise.com on February 14, 2014

Members of the Headwaters Amateur Radio Club at the February 6 meeting were, Lee Brooke, Wayne Stahler, Greg DiCesare, Diana Guilfooy, Jim Lucy, Carl Sottolano, Jerry Moran, Bruce Manning, William Merkle, Don Serkleski, Tom Guilfooy, Jack "Jason" Layton, Jim Douglas, Curtis Campell, Denis Campell and Basil McCutcheon.

[Hams Help Out with St. Clair County During Winter Storm:](#)

by alabamas13.com on February 14, 2014

First responders and HAM radio operators across St. Clair County are working together to ensure everyone stays safe. During the January 28 storm, cell phone service dropped out. 60 HAM radio operators are spread out across the county to make sure that emergency operations can continue as needed.

[ARNewsline Report 1905 - Feb. 14 2014:](#)

by Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) on February 14, 2014

The following is a QST. Hams stand ready in Slovenia as severe weather turns electric power off for many citizens; Radio Amateurs of Canada says it will protect hams from proposed cellphone tower law; a United Kingdom monitoring station traces 40 meter interference to France; an on the air party to introduce High Frequency Digital Audio to the world; the commissioning of the new Ham Video system on the ISS postponed to March and twinkling the light of Morse code is alive once more from the UK. Find out the details are on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1905 coming your way right now.

[Just Ahead In Radiosport!](#)

by The ARRL Letter on February 13, 2014

Just Ahead In Radiosport!

[Amsterdam Island FT5ZM DXpedition Concludes Operation:](#)

by The ARRL Letter on February 13, 2014

The FT5ZM DXpedition has shut down, although the trip home remains. That news may be welcome to non-DXers who have been contending with huge and sometimes chaotic split-operation pileups that occasionally occupied substantial segments of spectrum, but depressing for operators who were unsuccessful in snagging this rare one.

[ISS CubeSat Deployment, 'Ham Video' Commissioning Postponed:](#)

by The ARRL Letter on February 13, 2014

Two Amateur Radio-related activities aboard the International Space Station have been postponed. The deployment of Amateur Radio CubeSats planned for February 6 was put off, and a new date has not yet been announced.

[Winter Edition of New Radio Waves E-Newsletter now Available:](#)

by The ARRL Letter on February 13, 2014

The Winter 2014 edition of Radio Waves, ARRL's redesigned and renamed e-newsletter for instructors and teachers, is now available on the ARRL website. Among the selection of articles: "High School Students Put Packet Radio to Work for Local Environmental Study," "Club Boasts Fourfold Increase in New Licensees/Upgrades," "Instructor Corner -- News, Ideas, Support," and "In The Classroom: Teaching Ohm's Law."

[Work the World During the ARRL International DX Contest \(CW\)!](#)

by The ARRL Letter on February 13, 2014

The CW weekend of the ARRL International DX Contest is February 15-16 (UTC). If you like CW DX, this event "keeps the DX aiming in your direction," as Ward Silver, N0AX, put it in his ARRL Contest Update e-newsletter. "With propagation so good lately, this might be a good weekend to spend on the radio," he added.



The 46th Annual (2014) Apple Blossom Parade – Saturday May 17

Repeater Information

Repeater Interference

The 146.955 repeater continues to see interference to existing conversations as well as at random quiet times throughout the day and night. The repeater interference committee needs your help in collecting data. If you hear any type of interference, please report the following info to "repeater" at "wb1gof.org":



- Time: When did the event happen?
- Observing location: Where were you? Were you mobile?
- Frequency: Input only (146.355 MHz)
- What you heard: Voices, tones, kerchunking or whatever.
- Signal strength: Either by ear (noisy, quiet or full quiet) or S meter
- Radio: To get an idea of the reporter's radio situation.

* Most important - what direction: How did you determine direction? This is the most essential piece of information. Even if it's an estimate as in "Roughly east" or "from the Northeast" it's useful. NEVER EVER reply or direct any thing to the sick person causing the interference. Because some of us have answered this person, he knows we are aware of him and that is what keeps him doing it. Also since you are communicating with a non IDing station you are operating just as illegally as he is. YOU ARE BROADCASTING! NEVER TALK ABOUT INTERFERENCE on air. NEVER

If you are interested in assisting in helping us identify the sources of interference, contact Terry-KA8SCP.

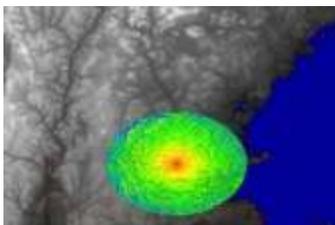
EmComm events and repeater use

Most everyone knows that the 146.955 repeater is used during times of emergency situations, drills and exercises. Skywarn and the monthly EmComm drills are the normal events.

So what does this mean to those that are just looking for regular QSOs with other users? It means that if you are in a regular QSO and there is a significant weather situation that has been getting press/air-time lately, you can expect that if severe weather develops in our area, the folks from Taunton-WX1BOX may interrupt a QSO and ask anyone on frequency what may be happening weather wise. The BOX operator will probably ask for specific information, hail, wind damage, property damage from lightning or wind, etc. Please give him the information he needs or tell him that you've not heard of any such activity. You don't need to tell him it is sunny in Nashua!

There may come a time when an unexpected emergency situation arises. These will significant events that may affect life and property. This is where EmComm activity may step in. Usually an NCS will interrupt a QSO and announce the situation and ask for a QSO to cease or to be "aware" of the possibility of priority calls/traffic. Please make sure you leave breaks between transmissions so stations with traffic can get in between QSOs. If there is enough traffic, it may be necessary for your existing/interrupted QSO QSY to another frequency. You should use your best judgment or check with the NCS on what he feels is best.

If you have any questions, please feel free to correspond with either Hugh-N1QGE (Westford EmComm/Skywarn NCS) or Terry-KA8SCP (MEMA Region 1 Communications Officer and Skywarn NCS) . They will be more than happy to talk about these programs with you.



Repeater info is now available on the PART [website](#). Check out the links to the summit information as well as coverage and plot plans maps for the WB1GOF repeaters. Complete info on the site can be found at this [URL](#).

PART Gear

The PART Quartermaster has lots of great PART-ware for sale including mugs and shirts. You can get information how you can obtain your PART-ware at the monthly club meetings.

Club members are also encouraged to obtain an official PART badge from [The Sign Man](http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html) (<http://thesignman.com/clubs/part.html>) PLEASE NOTE: Please check with Hugh Maguire-N1QGE, hulin127@verizon.net, if you need a badge.



EmComm

Emergency Communications – The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is used on the first Monday of every month (except federal/state holidays) for an EmComm Net starting at 1930 local time. If you are interested in being part of the local emergency communications team in your community, feel free to contact any of the following folks:
Terry Stader – KA8SCP, MEMA Region 1 Communications Officer
Hugh Maguire – N1QGE, for the Town of Westford
Bill Ohm – W1OHM, for the Town of Chelmsford
Darrel Mallory – K1EJ, North Middlesex ARES

- We need radio operators that can pass messages on to the local emergency management directors in several towns in northern Middlesex County.

Skywarn - The WB1GOF 146.955 repeater is also used for reporting significant weather events to the National Weather Service from our local spotters. We expect to have a local Skywarn training class in 2010, more information as it becomes available. You can provide valuable information even if you have not attended one of the training sessions. Listen to the Skywarn Net Control Station for reporting criteria, when you have information that qualifies, please advise him with your report.

Situational Awareness – Recently, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency has asked the Amateur Radio community to provide situational awareness and disaster intelligence information within your local community via EmComm nets and/or Skywarn stations. Significant events such as widespread power outages can be reported and by agencies such as MEMA to evaluate the scope of a blackout for example. Initially, you should try and contact the EmComm Net Control Stations on the Westford 146.955 repeater to pass this information. More on this new program will be forthcoming.

PART Sunday Night Net – The PART Net each Sunday night is an IMPORTANT part of our regional EmComm function. With each station that checks in from the surrounding communities, we test our ability to communicate vital information to the ham radio community. Sure we announce club info but we can also communicate regional disaster news and serve as a “hub” for news of situations in our communities. The repeater is on a generator, so even if we loose power in the region, an HT with a supply of batteries will reconnect you to other local hams.



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Our forum is: <http://wb1gof.net/forums/>
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